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## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

### St. Paul's Bloor Street

227 Bloor Street East  
Toronto, ON M4W 1C8  
416-961-8116  
mail@stpaulsbloor.org

#### Office Hours

Monday to Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Sanctuary Hours

Sundays: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

#### Parking

Parking is free on Sunday mornings at the Manulife building located on the north side of Bloor Street at the top of Ted Rogers Way. To gain access to Manulife's parking, press the intercom button and inform the security attendant you are attending a service at St. Paul's.

Charitable Number  
119194942RR0001

stpaulsbloor.org

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 stpaulsbloor

# Welcome



Most of us end up in a faith community because we have been invited by someone—a parent, friend or colleague. We stay because we find others who express a genuine hospitality in a community that we want to be a part of.

If this is your first visit today, welcome! There are a few things we want you to know about. Today, after each of the services—there are brief tours of our facilities so you can get a feel for what is where, and why. There are muffins after the 8:15 a.m. service, the best Rice Crispy squares after the 9:30 a.m. Bridge service and ice cream—yes, ice cream—after the 11 a.m. service. We also have folks who can answer your questions at St. Paul's Central—our Information Hub in the glass Atrium.

We are so pleased you decided to join us today. May you find a welcoming community of fellow travellers who are seeking to follow Jesus as we live life together.

# A Simple Faith for a Challenging Life

By Mark Regis, Associate Priest



We live in 'disorienting' times. Political tensions and rhetoric strain the limits of western democracy. Natural disasters as well as unprecedented and unpredictable human-made disasters create fear and uncertainty. In the mist of this, social media overhauls the way we communicate. The accelerating rate of change in culture continues and it seems anxiety is on the rise.

It can be very difficult to know how to process and address the swirling realities around us. Adaptive challenges are ones where the old methods of facing a new challenge have simply been outgrown; they can no longer engage present realities fully or effectively.

How do we follow Jesus in times like this? Can our faith truly grow and deepen, meeting the challenges we face and not simply devolve towards stress management? The answer is a resounding "Yes."

Although we can't always apply old ways of thinking to today's challenges, we can definitely learn from the past. We are not the first ones to live in challenging times. We have a rich and wide legacy of Christians whose personal discipleship deepened in adaptive challenge, who became more alive and effective in their faith not despite their trials but through their trials.

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Brother Lawrence, who lived through the turbulent political upheavals of 17th Century Paris; Oswald Chambers who suffered a crippling depression and served soldiers in World War I; Julian of Norwich whose physical fragility and illness brought her to the door of death; Arseny who endured horrendous persecution in Soviet era Russia. In each case, the challenges that lay either outside or within them were far beyond the reach of religious formulas or personal spiritual strength. They were different people, in different circumstances, in different times in history, yet they experienced ongoing spiritual transformation and had incredible impacts on their communities, despite all odds.

What was their secret? No matter their personality type or gifts, cultural background or place in history, they all had a few simple traits in common:

- 1. Community** – Though sometimes they felt alone, they were never truly alone as they engaged real relationships that they nurtured and who in turn nurtured them.
- 2. Service** – The efforts would have seemed insignificant to many, but by participating in small acts of service, God was able to do big things in people's lives.
- 3. Trust in God** – Most importantly, they all learned to deliberately and prayerful rely on the goodness and presence of God's Spirit as they engaged the real challenges before them.

*What does this look like for us at St. Paul's?* Like Lawrence, Chambers, Julian, and Arseny, it's important to keep things simple. Amid our busy schedules, it's important to prioritize the practices that truly make a difference in living transforming lives.

- Add an additional Sunday to your monthly pattern of Sunday worship and make the point of building a relationship(s) and meeting new people. Consider joining a small group. Invite a friend or family member.
- Find a way to serve. Perhaps greeting on a Sunday morning, or through our Outreach initiatives. There are many possibilities available.
- Take small moments throughout the day to pause and thank God for His presence and ask for His help to follow Him. If (and when) you don't experience His presence, ask for even greater trust. Share your experiences with a fellow Jesus-follower and/or in a spiritual journal.



# Stepping into Faith

By Sandra Seaborn,  
Associate Priest

Raising children is both exhilarating and exhausting. While there are beautiful moments of play, laughter and naps, it can be hard to figure out feeding and sleeping just from cries. Yet it is at this early stage in life that many parents consider baptism.



In the Anglican tradition, we welcome people into God's family no matter the age. We understand baptism as an outward sign of an inward grace, a grace that is ultimately a gift through the love of Jesus. The water poured on the head symbolizes a cleansing from sin; the candle, the light of Jesus made manifest within each of us. We celebrate baptism within the inter-generational community of faith because it marks the moment of belonging to the worldwide family of Christian Faith. The baptism service also allows the rest of the congregation to renew their own commitment to following in the way of Jesus.

Following Jesus is a daily choice, sometimes even a moment by moment choice – especially if as a new parent you are operating with a severe sleep deficit. To help parents and children prepare for baptism, we offer a four-week course called *Stepping into Faith*, running concurrently with the 11 a.m. service from October 22 to November 19. The classes explore the meaning, the promises, the affirmations, and the prayers that are part of the baptism service. More importantly though, the gatherings are an opportunity to reflect on how participants were parented and how they might choose to parent in a way that they are able to share their faith with their child(ren). Over light refreshments, friendships between parents are formed as struggles are shared and successes celebrated.

If you are interested in signing up for the course, please visit [stpaulsbloor.org/stepping-faith](http://stpaulsbloor.org/stepping-faith). The next baptism is **November 26**. For more information contact Sandra Seaborn at ext. 226 or [ssseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:ssseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org).

## A Special Thank You to the Chancel Guild

Every year the Chancel Guild volunteer hours of their time to decorate for Thanksgiving.

Thank you to those who came out to help.

*Thank You!*



### GriefShare Starts This Month

If you are grieving the death of a loved one, this 6-week series offers support and fellowship through the grieving process. The series is a biblical approach to the deep hurt from the finality of death. Join us starting **Monday, October 16 at 5:30 p.m.**



For more information or to register visit [stpaulsbloor.org/griefshare](http://stpaulsbloor.org/griefshare) or contact Nancy Truscott, Parish Nurse, at ext. 228 or [parishnurse@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:parishnurse@stpaulsbloor.org)

### Ways to Give

For more information visit [stpaulsbloor.org/give](http://stpaulsbloor.org/give)



In Person



Pre-Authorized  
Giving



Through  
our App



Online

## This week we are praying for...

### World and National Issues

- All who live in the fear of war, violence and terrorism. May your presence place courage and peace in their hearts.
- Wisdom to be granted to all leaders, and especially our governments as they decide how to respond to the crises faced every day.
- The progress made in people's health made possible by wisdom, technology and creativity. For healing, we give you thanks.
- All victims of circumstances beyond their control, so that all may live in peace, harmony and with respect for the other.

### The Global Church

- Unity amid diversity, so we will love and walk with those with whom we have nothing in common but the saving grace of Jesus Christ.
- All followers of Jesus to grow in their faith and walk humbly, with you, our Lord and God.
- Everyone gathered today to worship in the Anglican Diocese (district) of Saskatchewan in northern Saskatchewan.

### In Our Own Church

We pray for the following members of our St. Paul's community: Cyndi, Samantha, Chris, Barbara, Timothy, Liz, Molly, Bob, Tina, Isabelle, Sabrina.  
We pray for your love, grace and mercy to sustain them.

## Annual General Meeting

The 175th Annual General (Vestry) Meeting of St. Paul's Bloor Street will be held on **Sunday, October 22 at 12:15 p.m.** The parish roll is available at St. Paul's Central or at the office during the week. Please check to ensure you are on the list. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend.

Materials for the Vestry Meeting are available for pick up at St. Paul's Central. Ask for your copy of the Annual Ministry Reports.

Financial Town Halls will take place **today** after each service.

To submit a motion for consideration at the Vestry meeting, a written copy must be provided to the Wardens by noon on Tuesday, October 17. Motions can be dropped off at the office or emailed to [mail@stpaulsbloor.org](mailto:mail@stpaulsbloor.org).



# What's Happening This Week

## Sunday, October 15

Financial Town Halls 9 a.m. | *Library*  
10:30 a.m. & 12 p.m. | *Cody Hall*  
Sunday Small Group - 12:15 p.m. | *Room 106*

## Monday, October 16

Grief Share - 5:30 p.m. | *Library*  
ESL Cafe - 6:30 p.m. | *Sanctuary*  
Prayer Time - 7 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

## Tuesday, October 17

Winchester Group - 10 a.m. | *Library*  
Holy Communion - 12:10 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*  
Christian Meditation - 1 p.m. | *Room 206*  
DivorceCare - 7 p.m. | *Library*

## Wednesday, October 18

Little Sunbeams - 9:45 a.m. | *Nursery*  
Lunchtime Alpha - 12 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*  
Alpha Prayer Time - 6 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*  
Alpha - 6:30 p.m. | *Cody Hall*  
Wednesday Night Youth - 7 p.m. | *Gym*

## Thursday, October 19

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9 a.m. | *Music Room*  
Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. | *Music Room*

## Friday, October 20

Music for Health Clinic - 10 a.m. | *Gym*

## Saturday, October 21

Street Patrol Youth Event - 11 a.m. | *Great Hall*

## Sunday, October 22

Stepping Into Faith - 10:45 a.m. | *Room 106*

# Every Sunday

## Worship Services

8:15 a.m. | *Chapel of the Good Shepherd*  
9:30 a.m. **the bridge** | *Sanctuary*  
11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

## Prayer Ministry

9 a.m., 10:20 a.m. & 12 p.m.  
*St. Paul's Chapel*

## Nursery

beginning at 9:15 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

## Children's Ministry

9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

## Youth Group

9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | *Youth Room*

## Prayer Groups

10:20 a.m. | *Room 7*  
10:50 a.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

## Community Lunch

12:15 p.m. | *Great Hall*  
\$8 per person

## The Flowers Today

The flowers in the Church are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:

At the High Table and in the Chapels: Michael Newton given by his family.

At the Font: Susan Monahan given by John & Marjorie Monahan, Michael Charles & Stuart Daniel.

## Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

James 3:4b-10

Topic: Humility